



U.S. Department of Justice

**Craig S. Morford
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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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February 1, 2005

EVENT: Indictment

DEFENDANTS:

**REGINALD DANCY, 34, Detroit, MI
ERIC LAMAR WOODLEY, 27, Washington Township, MI
CURTIS ELLISON, 32, Detroit, MI
KEITH BURNELL LAWSON, Detroit, MI
LAMARR WILLIAMS, 27, Detroit, MI
DERRICK WOODLEY, 26, Detroit, MI
RORY D. JONES, 38, Detroit, MI
ROBERT KEATHLEY, 28, Detroit, MI**

Date: February 1, 2005

EIGHT CHARGED IN MULTI-TON

MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

United States Attorney Craig S. Morford announced that a grand jury indictment was unsealed today charging eight Detroit area residents with participating in a multi-ton marijuana distribution operation between Arizona and Michigan. The indictment had been returned by the grand jury on April 13, 2004 and sealed until today. The offenses charged in the indictment are felonies which provide for a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a fine

of \$4 million.

The indictment charges that the men operated the network since 1999 and transported the marijuana to the metropolitan areas of Detroit in vehicles containing secret compartments and by other means. In addition to drug charges, the indictment also alleges a conspiracy to launder drug proceeds by Reginald Dancy, Curtis Ellison, Eric Lamar Woodley, Rory D. Jones and Robert Keathley and seeks to forfeit drug assets of up to \$10 million.

Three of the defendants, Eric Woodley, Robert Keathley, and Curtis Ellison were arrested last night.

U.S. District Judge Victoria A. Roberts has not set a trial date.

A copy of the indictment is available upon request. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

United States Attorney Craig S. Morford commended the work of the Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, as well as deputies of the United States Marshal Service. The Marshals Service was also responsible for tracking and apprehending the three defendants arrested.